

Intervention: Abecedarian Project

Finding: Sufficient evidence for effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

The Abecedarian Project began in North Carolina in 1971. It is based on general systems theory with a full-time educational intervention in high-quality child-care settings. It includes parental involvement with educational games that focus on social, emotional and cognitive development, with a particular emphasis on language. In the school-age phase, the goal is to involve parents in their children's learning. Families are assigned a Home School Resource Teacher (HSRT) who serves as a liaison between the school and home for the first three years that the child attends public school.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

The long-term findings show sufficient evidence that the program is effective in both reducing the number of adolescent births and delaying the first births for children placed in these child-care settings.

Limitations/Comments:

This program is for healthy African American infants that meet federal poverty guidelines. It is a full-time educational program that consists of high-quality child care from infancy to 5 years of age. It involves parents in the children's education during the elementary school years.

Ninety-eight percent of the participants were African Americans. The mothers' mean age was 20, and most of the mothers were unmarried with no source of income.

Additional information:

FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/>

References:

Alford, S. Science and Success: Sex education and other programs that work to prevent teen pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections; 2003. Available online at: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/ScienceSuccess.pdf>